

Message Text

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20/61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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IGA-01 /063 W

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R 251305Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6049

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED PARAGRAPH 2.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS OF INCREASE IN AMERICAN POPULATION
IN PERSIAN GULF

1. IRANIAN PAPERS JUNE 25 CARRIED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS
OF DOD OFFICIALS' TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
TO EFFECT THAT NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN PERSIAN GULF STATES
WILL RISE TO ABOUT 150,000 PERSONS. THIS FIGURE WOULD
REPRESENT A TRIPLING IN NUMBER OF U.S. CIVILIAN
AND MILITARY TECHNICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING NEXT
FIVE YEARS IN IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND KIWAIT. MAJORITY
OF TECHNICIANS WOULD BE EMPLOYED BY DEFENSE CONTRACTORS,
ARTICLES STATE.

2. WE REALIZE THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS HAVE LITTLE OR
NO CONTROL OVER PRESS INTERPRETATIONS OR ABBREVIATIONS
OF PREPARED TEXTS, BUT WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THIS KIND
OF VAGUE REPORTING DOES US NO GOOD IN IRAN. THERE IS
ALWAYS PRESENT HERE A LATENT XENOPHOBIA WHICH CAN BE
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AGITATED BY RUMORS AND MISLEADING REPORTS OF AN ENLARGE-

MENT OF FOREIGN ACTIVITIES IN IRAN. ACCORDINGLY, WE
THINK WASHINGTON OFFICIALS SHOULD BE AS CAREFUL AS
POSSIBLE IN ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC TO AVOID GENERALITIES
BASED ON LESS THAN TOTALLY RELIABLE ESTIMATES. OUR
FIGURES ON U.S. MANPOWER PROJECTIONS FOR THIS REGION SHOULD
BE PRECISE, SPECIFIC AND CONSERVATIVE. THERE IS LITTLE
TO BE GAINED FROM A "WORST / CASE" ANALYSIS. IF WE MUST
PRESENT ESTIMATES, WE SHOULD NOT ERR ON THE SIDE OF
CREATING UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS FOR OURSELVES. AND LET US
AVOID THE FALSE IMPRESSION CREATED BY A SENSATIONAL STATIS-
TICAL AGGREGATE.

3. WE NOTE ALSO FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT DOD IS REPORTED
TO HAVE RECENTLY PROVIDED SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH DETAILS OF IMPROPER
PAYMENTS BY DEFENSE CONTRACTORS TO FOREIGN AGENTS. IF
REPORT IS CORRECT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS
IT RELATES TO IRAN.
HELMS

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